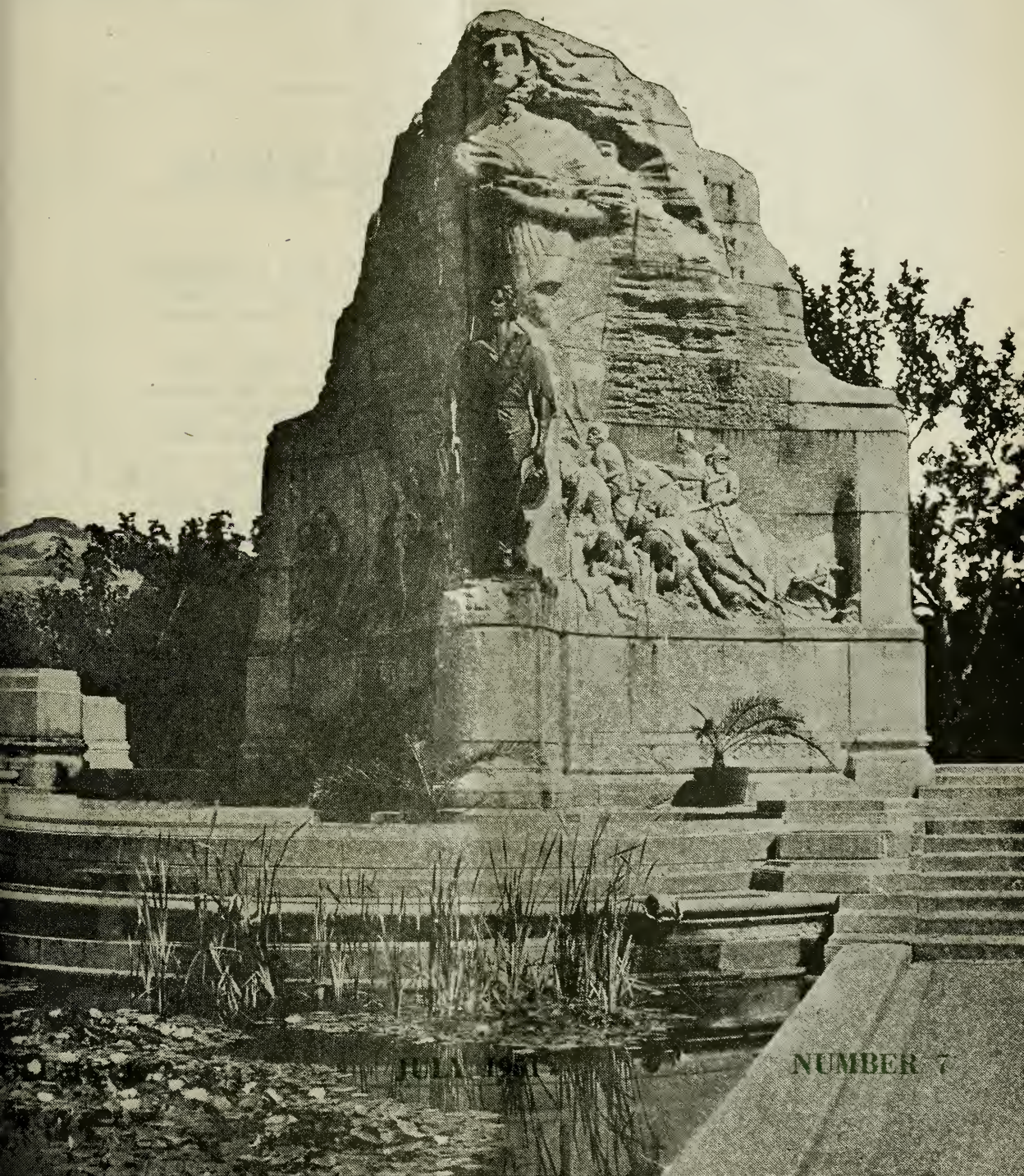


VOLUME 26

JULY 1951

Cumora's Southern Messenger

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JULY 1951

NUMBER 7

B. Young

To
Henry Bradshaw,
New Green Co.,
Ohio.

Great Salt Lake City,
November 27, 1851.

Dear Brother,

Your letter making enquiries concerning the route to Salt Lake is received, and in reply I will state that when you arrive at Kainesville you can get one of Clayton's guides which will prove of essential service to you on your journey.

It affords me sincere pleasure to hear from the faithful saints—especially those who having passed through the fiery ordeal continue faithful and firm in the faith. This is the school that prepares us to live by faith and to bring us to a true understanding of our dependence upon God. If man wishes to inherit Celestial Glory he must not complain if he shall be made a "partaker of the suffering of Christ." By it we shall become like him and be enabled to participate in his glory. So shall our most ardent aspirations be realized if we continue faithful unto the end, and in this life have the sweet satisfaction of not having lived in vain. The word to all the saints is to gather as fast as circumstances will permit to the vallies of the mountains. Do not wait for an extra outfit, but exert that energy which the spirit of God within you stirs up in your bosom and you will come whether you have a Vision or not, even if you have to walk across the plains.

Therefore come with good courage and exercising patience, faith and humility and the God of Jacob will be your friend. Praying that the blessings of the faithful may rest with you. I am your Brother in the New and Everlasting Covenant.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

The above letter is printed for the first time from an original in the possession of Mrs. M. C. Johnson.

Vol 26.

No. 7.

Cumorah's

Southern Messenger

JULY 1951

Editor: Evan P. Wright

Assoc. Editor: Geo. L. Albright

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The Church...

AROUND THE WORLD

PRES. DAVID O. MCKAY accepted invitations to address the graduates of three universities, two in Utah and one in Pennsylvania, during June.

On June 9, he spoke to 1,486 graduates of the University of Utah at the eighty-second commencement exercises of that school. On June 3, he delivered the Baccalaureate Sermon to the students of the Brigham Young University and on June 14, he delivered the address to the graduates of Temple University of Pennsylvania, the twentieth largest university in the United States.

THE RELIEF SOCIETY MAGAZINE reached the 95,000 subscribers mark last month. Not only is this circulation figure incredibly high, but also it is widespread, going literally around the earth. In addition to having subscribers, and enthusiastic ones, too, in every state of the United States, there are thousands of women who anxiously await the mailman each month in thirty other nations. This marks the magazines thirty-fifth year of publication. The contents consist of literary, artistic and practical articles, that are designed to "improve minds and beautify homes."

BANGOR IRELAND — playing the two top teams of Ireland within the space of six hours, the British LDS missionary team won both games to win the basketball championship of Ireland recently. . . . News has been received that the Swedish Mission basketball team has just succeeded in winning the Swedish International Basketball championship. The final game for the title was played in the largest hall in Stockholm with a crowd of 6,000 excited and cheering fans. They succeeded in beating their chief competitors for the championship, the Lithuanians who are outstanding in basketball because it is their national sport. Throughout the season 28 games were played and the LDS team won 26! . . . Does anyone know how many National basketball championships missionary teams hold? We have won in Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Portuguese East Africa, Sweden and France. — Which ones have we missed?

ELDER EZRA TAFT BENSON, of the Council of the Twelve, received the Silver Antelope for distinguished service in Scouting at recent annual meeting at Long Beach Calif. The Silver Antelope is comparable to the Silver Beaver on a local council level. Elder Benson has been actively engaged in Scouting for thirty-two years. He is the father of six children, two sons and four daughters. Both of his sons, have been active in the scouting program, and both have reached the Eagle rank.

Two other prominent members of the Church have recently received the Silver Antelope. It was awarded to Elder John D. Giles, Business Manager of the Improvement Era and former counselor in the General Superintendency of the YMMIA, and to Elder George H. Hill, General Superintendent of the Deseret Sunday School Union.

IN A SMALL CITY of New Mexico, two missionaries of the Western States Mission have organized a Mutual Improvement Association for the young people of the town and now have more than 60 young men and women attending each week, none of whom are members of the Church. . . . Think your branch is growing fast? Consider the Highland View Ward of East Mill Creek in the southeast section of Salt Lake City. Organized a little over a year ago with 750 members, it now has nearly 1,900 members. With a membership almost entirely of recently and newly married couples, the ward has never had less than 10 babies blessed and named during a Fast Meeting. The young Bishop Cannon, boast that the number of babies attending Relief Society outnumbers their mothers two to one!

THE CHINESE MISSION has been transferred from China to San Francisco, California. Because of the unsettled political future of China the entire missionary staff of the Chinese Mission were recently forced to move to another continent, where they are now firmly established.

President Robertson arrived in Hong Kong to re-open the mission on July 10, 1949. To assist President and Mrs. Robertson in

(Continued on last page.)

We are Pioneers Today

ETERNALLY coupled with the month of July in the memories and current thoughts of Latter-Day Saints, as well as multitudes of informed people throughout the world and in particular those who live within the confines of Western America, is the event which triumphantly climaxed the first two decades of Mormonism, that of the arrival of the pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley. Since that first significant July 24th of 1847, innumerable commemorative anniversaries have been celebrated to keep burning within the hearts of their descendants the spirit of that people. This is appropriate and should be continued; however, it would be meaningless and hollow should we stop there.

Each year sees the history of those valiant defenders of the gospel being repeated through various expressions — dramatical productions, monumental shafts of granite and marble made to pierce the sky, oils placed on canvas by artistic hands, eloquently penned prose in company with soul stirring words of poets. Such repetitions are beautiful, demonstrative of a great consciousness of indebtedness, pride and the humble gratitude of a rapidly growing posterity. Such demonstrations on our part could be, by the opposites to all we represent, and sometimes are, accounted as vain, deceptive, artificial, and insincere expressions of an ever so shallow profession of genuine thanksgiving for and loyalty to the Latter-Day Saints of the 19th century. Perhaps such accusations are not wholly without truth.

There are, however, unquestionable ways and means of announcing to the world not only our profound gratitude for our heritage but also of the accomplishments of the generations which have followed, of the real fruits of the gospel. While we are repeating the history of those great souls and participating in movements to preserve much of what belonged to their generation, may God grant us the strength and fortitude to repeat in our lives the same courage which made possible their meeting and conquering what faced them; equal faith in our Creator, in the destiny of this great Latter Day work, in those whom the Most High has appointed to direct His church in 1951; the same humility that filled their souls; the same sense of responsibility to those of our own community; the same determination in the face of opposition, however great or small it may be; the same unparalleled spirit of sacrifice and the ability to protect our thinking and subsequent actions beyond the interest of self. With a million members of the human family repeating in their lives today these attributes and virtues which motivated the Latter Day Saints of a century ago, a testimony and witness to the world to the divinity of this work would be so dynamically declared that none could challenge it, no finger of question could be raised, irrefutable evidence would be presented. Such accomplishments are not to be labeled as the would be products of ideologists, nor a theologist's utopia, but as living realities in modern Israel.

Though of somewhat a different nature, we are pioneers today, faced with what would appear to the weak faithed to be insurmountable obstacles, overwhelming opposition, to be fighting a battle of futility, to have been assigned goals beyond possible achievement. Our problems are different than theirs for with each new day come new perplexities requiring solution. Never before have we had greater need to weld ourselves together in the gospel of Jesus Christ and dedicate ourselves to the work which we have voluntarily become a part of. The salvation

(Continued on page 109)

THE MISSION PRESIDENCY

The Mormon Battalion Trek

The setting of this story takes us back over a century to an exiled people camped on the Iowa plains — an unwanted people leaving the confines of the United States. It is a story of a band of pioneer soldiers which broke a way through the rugged mountains and over trackless wastes on a march which was destined to be known as the greatest infantry march in history.

It began when a man named Jesse C. Little was sent to the President of the United States in an effort to gain protection from the government for his people on their westward trek. Before his death Joseph Smith had made some preparations for moving his people into the Rocky Mountains, desiring governmental sanction and protection he carried on negotiations with the Federal Government with that end in view. Maps and other information of the West had been collected. After the martyrdom, Brigham Young carried the Prophet's plans forward, but before any help could be obtained, the Saints were driven out of Nauvoo. Unable to dispose of much of their property they were destitute of cash.

When Brigham Young arrived at the Missouri River he pitched his tent and made camp. Before the dust had settled the startling news reached him that war had broken out between the United States and Mexico. On June 30th, Captain James Allen of the U. S. Army arrived in camp and asked for an interview with President Young. He bore a letter from General Kearney asking whether the Saints would enlist among their number, "four or five hundred able bodied men" to march into California, and take possession there. His argument was that the government would see the men through to the Pacific Coast, pay them a monthly sum, provide them rations and at the end of their journey give them their arms and clothing. From many a standpoint the arrangement looked favourable. The men's wages would be paid in advance and would be a godsend to their families. On the other hand the loss of this man-power would greatly weaken the camp and leave a fearful responsibility in caring for the dependants who were left behind.

However the only suitable place for spending the winter was on Indian lands. While the Indians were especially friendly to the Mormons, the Indian agents were not. It became increasingly evident that any attempt to winter there would be fraught with trouble. Whereas if a Battalion of soldiers were raised to march in the cause of the United States, the government must of necessity protect the families of these men who wished to winter on the Indian lands before starting West. After exacting a promise from Captain Allen that the Saints would be allowed to remain on the Indian lands while preparing for their westward journey, and after deliberating with the Twelve, President Young replied, "Captain, you shall have your men."

Such was the origin of the famous Mormon Battalion and their unparalleled march of 2,000 miles on foot, across the barren desolate waste of the southwestern part of the United States.

The Battalion started from Council Bluffs, Iowa, August 12th, 1846, and followed the route to Fort Leavenworth. Here Captain Allen, who had become a close friend of the Battalion men, died after ordering them to proceed without him. Lieutenant A. J. Smith was sent by the army to replace him.

The march to Santa Fe was conducted at a rapid pace which told severely on the men who had been already weakened by the journey from Nauvoo. A number of them had been allowed to bring their wives and families with them where private wagons were provided, but it soon became apparent that the march was too much for women and children and as they crossed the Arkansas River a special guard of ten men conducted nearly all of the women back to intercept the main body of Saints going toward the Great Basin.

Day after day the march continued into the Southwest. Feet were blistered by the hot sands and shoulders were galled by the heavy packs; there was no time to rest. Often men became so weary they could not endure the grind, fell behind and trudged into camp hours after the rest.

On October 9th, the first detachment of the Battalion reached Santa Fe. This was

the oldest city of the Southwest, a place of 6,000 inhabitants and an important trade centre between Mexico and the United States. When the Battalion entered the city, Colonel Doniphan, who had befriended the Mormons in Missouri, had a salute of a hundred guns fired in their honour. At Santa Fe Lieutenant Colonel Cooke took over the command of the Battalion. Here the men were inspected and eighty-six men, found sick or unable to endure the march ahead, were detached to Pueblo to join those already sent there for the winter.

On October 10th, the Battalion left Santa Fe. Their difficulties had really just begun. The long journey to California across the roadless waste was enough to test the endurance of the strongest men. Often wells had to be dug before water of any sort could be obtained.

After another 200 miles of marching they reached the place where the only fighting the Battalion engaged in took place — a fight with wild bulls. A large number of infuriated bulls charged the wagon train and gorged several mules to death and upset one of the wagons. Two or three of the men were severely bruised and around sixty of the wild bulls were killed before they would desist from their attacks.

When the men reached the California desert they experienced intense suffering. They marched through miles and miles of sand dunes where they were forced to tie ropes to the wagons, and twenty or thirty men would help their oxen and mules pull the supplies through that difficult terrain. Tyler writes of these days:

"We found here the heaviest sands and hottest days, and coldest nights, with no water and but little food. At this time the men were nearly barefooted. Some used instead of shoes, rawhide wrapped around their feet to shield them from the burning sand during the day and the cold at night.

"Before we arrived at the garrison many of the men were so nearly used up from thirst, hunger, and fatigue, that they were unable to speak until they reached the water or had it brought to them. Those who were strongest reported, when they arrived that they had passed many lying exhausted by the wayside."

When they passed through the rugged mountain ranges they were forced to cut a passage through the rocks with axe, pick, and crowbar so they could take their wagons and equipment through. At times wagons were taken apart, lowered over a precipice and put together again.

When at last the Pacific ocean came into view, the sight of it filled them with an exaltation they had not known for months. They soon were given the glad news that all of California was already in the hands of the Americans, and the company turned south to San Diego. The end of the journey was reached January 29, 1847. Their remaining time in the service was spent in building a fort at Los Angeles, in guarding the passes to the northeast, in building roads, and digging ditches. So faithfully did the Battalion discharge their duties, and so free were they from the vices of the usual soldiers, that great inducements were offered to get them to re-enlist. But the majority had families which they were anxious to rejoin. They knew it would be a long trek to their future home in the Salt Lake valley and they were ready to begin their journey.

A few of the Battalion members remained for the winter in California. These found employment at Sutter's Mill in the Sacramento Valley, and were present at the time of the discovery of gold. In fact it is from the journal of a Battalion man, Henry Bigler, that the authentic date for the discovery of gold in California is learned. On Monday January 24, 1848, Bigler wrote: "this day some kind of metal was found in the tail race that looks like gold." The cry of "gold" was the signal for the mad scramble which turned the eyes of the civilised world to California. In the next seven years, over two million pounds was added to the world's store of gold. But the call of duty and religion was greater than the appeal of riches. Spring found the Battalion members heading for the Great Basin with their savings—leaving the gold fields to which all the world was rushing.

Today annual celebrations are held in California and the descendants of these Battalion soldiers attract the attention of many thousands of California residents with their colourful parades of men and women garbed in authentic uniforms of the Mexican war period. The governors of Utah and California participate in these events and marches which usually take place in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Bernadino, in California.

Material taken from "The Restored Church," by William E. Barrett and "Brigham Young The Man and His Work," by Preston Nibley.

Westward with the Saints

By Sister Johanna Fourie
Mission Primary Mother

Our story starts sometime on the 4th of February 1846. If you could have stood on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River on the 4th of February, 1846, you would have witnessed a strange sight. There was an endless stream of covered wagons, loaded with emigrants and provisions, crossing from the Illinois bank to the Iowa side. This continued until 15,000 people had left the beautiful city of Nauvoo on the bend of the river.

These people left most of their property that they had accumulated after six years of hard work, and saddest of all, they left the graves of their Prophet Joseph Smith, Patriarch Hyrum Smith, and their beautiful Temple, and took their flight into the unknown.

In September of the previous year at a meeting it was decided that the Mormons should leave the State of Illinois as speedily as possible. Between 50,000 and 60,000 joined the chorus in demanding their expulsion.

These migrating thousands of Saints desired to be free to worship God in their own way even if it meant sacrificing the comforts of life. They went out to seek a place where they could make a permanent home for themselves, and those who would come after them. They were people who had been accustomed to many of the refinements of life. They were an industrious and thrifty people.

This great task of moving a body of 15,000 men, women and children over a thousand mile stretch of roadless prairie and mountain country has been without parallel in the history of the nation.

The Latter-day Saint people had been accustomed to obedience. They had taught themselves to look to the Prophet for spiritual guidance, and now they trusted Brigham Young, and the confidence they placed in this great leader was amply justified.



The great company of exiled Saints were divided into two great divisions under Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball. These were subdivided into smaller companies. It was the spirit back of this organisation that distinguished the fine team work on this enforced march of the Mormon people.

We can only form a faint picture of the sombre background of the trials of these early Mormon Pioneers as they wended their weary way across the great plains in their covered wagons, in the hand-carts or on foot; the rains that drenched them to the skin, the heavy snows, the bitter frost that benumbed their fingers and froze their feet and sent many a pioneer to an unmarked grave.

Then in summer the great clouds of dust that followed them half a day at a time, and choked them till they were ready to cry, the dry winds that parched their lips and cracked their hands and faces, the constant dread of roaming Indians out to steal their horses and cattle, and the worse dread of great herds of buffalo that swept the plains like a tornado without any concern for what was in their way. Then there was the never ending gnawing of hunger and thirst.

"Oh, the scenes that the people will pass through," the prophet exclaimed at the time he predicted that the Saints would go to the Rocky Mountains, "and oh, the dread that will lie between here and there."

(Continued on page 106)

A Latter Day Saint Family



By Elder Dean W. Martin.

SHORTLY before sunset yesterday, our little band of covered wagons, which had come from the prairies of Illinois early in the month of July, 1847, forded a tiny stream about three miles from our present location. We had been on our journey nigh on a month, and everything had been peaceful. No difficulties were incurred as we crossed the small stream to continue our route to the West, but as we trekked on, one of my travelling companions spotted a group of horsemen to the south of us, moving quickly in our direction. From previous reports given by others who had gone on before us we knew that white men were seldom seen roaming in this country and that more than likely this band of riders were Indians out for a fight. Alerting himself when told of the impending danger to the left of us, our leader took command of the plight by issuing orders for his company to form the traditional circle so common to covered wagon commuters. All of us did this in a matter of minutes and commenced to fortify ourselves as best we could with provisions and items of a barricading nature,

As was suspected the men on horses were Indians coming to see what they could do in disturbing our caravan of wagons. Due to superstitious customs amongst the attacking warriors they waited until daybreak to come at us with full strength. With a long night ahead of us we prepared our camp for battle and silently awaited the forthcoming daylight.

When dawn came we plainly could see that we were outnumbered three to one, so with the desire to live and mingle with those we loved, we began to ward off the oncoming avengers with all our available weapons. Our progress for a time was good and continued until the mid-hours of the day when reinforcements for the savages appeared. It was then that our men and women began to tumble to the ground as a result of the increased shower of arrows. The bewildered children sought protection from their parents, but soon many of them fell and left their bewildered young ones staring directly into the wild form of butchery as it went on at its ever-increasing pace.

You may wonder why I have taken pains

to write down all of the details of this disaster and relate it to you. I am a single fellow in the ranks of this weary-worn chain of pioneers and somewhat new besides, but I feel as if I have learned the real meaning of life. Though I know that I am penning the last lines of my existence on this earth, I want to make sure that a record is made to preserve the story of the brave men and women who stood together and attempted to save themselves and those they loved from being destroyed before they could realise the desires of their hearts.

Long before our journey began most of us did not know each other. We had come from different parts of the globe and we had joined together because of our common beliefs as taught to us by a man who is already a martyr to the cause. We unitedly put our meager means together to go in search of a place where we could uplift our lives to a level which we knew we were capable of with the help of that Higher influence. I am glad that I came with these loyal Saints, though our complete destruction is now certain.

The savages have set fire to the canvas tops on the wagons and are romping among the lifeless bodies that lie scattered on the ground. About an hour ago I heard groans just beyond where I lay concealed under the framework of a wagon and some supplies. I crept over to where I thought the groans were coming from and found a father and a mother and their children clutching each other, as if they were one. It was evident that nothing could be done to alleviate their distress for they were nearly gone. I crawled over next to them to see if there was any last request I could answer. When the father became aware of my presence he painfully rolled himself over and blindly put his hand out to grasp mine. As he found it, he uttered to me in a mumbled tone, "*We worked together always!*" And then the bundle of human beings slumped and spoke no more.

I felt empty, deserted, and blank. I crawled back to my former position beneath the burning wagon. As the air became warmer and warmer I realized that the dying father wanted me to act as his spokesman to those of the future who might learn of this incident. If he could have spoken I think he would have had the hardy determination to say to all of us: "The normal state for a man and a woman is to be married as my wife and I are — for all

time and eternity! The creative powers which are within our bodies are to be used righteously in behalf of our Father in Heaven in bringing the spirits of those waiting, into this mortal life. Once we are given someone to watch and care for we have cheerfully and obediently taken a choice responsibility on our shoulders — that of seeing that the infant goes through life with all the care and attention that he or she deserves. And, that parental care coming from fatherhood and motherhood belongs to no others but to those who brought that child into the world. I yearn to tell you mothers and fathers that your callings are high and lofty and the best given by our Father on High. It is not with whim or fancy but with anxiety from my heart that I repeat, mother and father, you are the only ones who have the right to give parental love and care to your children. Hired help cannot give it, public homes cannot give it, boarding homes cannot give it—only mother and father can give it! Mother does the biggest job in rearing the children, and no one can take her place. I commend all those foster mothers and fathers and others who have raised children who have no parents living. To those couples who cannot have offspring, through no fault of their own, I encourage them to adopt young babies and bring them up with a tenderness they would give their own children, were they able to have them. For parenthood is next to Divinity. It is the highest, holiest service that can be assumed by mankind."

Although I am not sure into whose hands my record will fall, I hope what I have written will someday reveal to many the unity and faith which have led the small group of men, women, and children with whom I have banded, to live so honourably. I hope that all of you who may have reason to read this record will keep that legacy of affection and allegiance strong in your span of life, like the family I witnessed dying in each others arms. If you keep such courage active, you may knowingly climb high toward the status of becoming a candidate for the Celestial Degree of Heaven.

"Happiness is the object and design of our existence, and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God."

—Joseph Smith.

WESTWARD WITH THE SAINTS

(Continued from page 105)

One of the commonest scenes was a death-bed, a bural in a shallow grave, and a digging up of the body by wolves.

In spite of all the hardships and sorrows the Pioneers had to endure they never lost their sense of humour. Their love of fun saved them many a time from a melancholy that could turn into insanity.

It was a sense of humour as well as thrift which made the young women of Garden Grove go to dances with their best shoes and dresses under their arms and then when they got there change into them just before the dance.

The earliest company had two brass bands. These bands furnished entertainment. At Farmington, Iowa, they received an invitation from the town's folk to put on a concert. The graceful minuet and lively Virginia Reel were danced to the best of music by the hand Pioneers.

Brigham Young introduced the dances, encouraged music and made use of the musician William Pitt, and such poets in the camp as Eliza R. Snow, Parley P. Pratt, and William Phelps. Once when the spirits of the camp were low, President Young asked Clayton to write a song. He went off by himself and when he returned he had finished writing that stirring song, that is still the favourite song at Pioneer socials, "Come, Come, Ye Saints, no toil nor labour fear."

COMRADE MARATHON (Continued)

It was before daylight on a fresh South African winter morning when the gun was fired and 39 South African and Rhodesian runners started on the 54 mile run through the "Valley of a Thousand Hills" to the winter vacation city of South Africa.

At set intervals, Dick's help-mates gave him a rub down and a "Mormon high-ball" (milk and ginger beer) then he was on the trail again.

Brother Fagan put all he had into the race and his friends rode along side of him in a car singing "Come, Come Ye Saints," to give him that fighting pioneer spirit. After 37 miles Dick fell against a tree and was ready to give it up; his muscles had tightened up, his strength was gone and he had no bubble gum to chew, but after

There was always at least one clown in the company or someone who could play a musical instrument, and everyone could sing—or imagined he could.

On the 24th of July 1847 the first company under Brigham Young entered the great Salt Lake Valley. They comprised in all 148 persons. The following day was Sunday and two services were held, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Some of the Apostles and President Young addressed the Saints. It was the first Sabbath in their new home. President Young instructed them to keep the Sabbath day holy and not to work, hunt, or fish on that day. Otherwise they should go elsewhere to live.

If we want to honour our Heavenly Father today and please Him, there is no better way than for us to live up to the standards of those early Pioneers. Their determination to serve God and keep His commandments, brought their success and happiness.

Today, children have so many more faculties to develop than were ever dreamt of in my youth. The growing strength of the Church and its opportunities for service provide them with a rich source for greater educational opportunities, but with these newer conditions come corresponding dangers if not properly used. If they will exercise the same faith, humility, integrity, and progress of the Pioneers, and avail themselves of the developments that are yet to come, they will be amongst the happiest and most intelligent youth of the world.

another good rub down and a high ball he was on his feet again.

Of the runners who didn't fall out along the way, Brother Fagan was the last to complete the 54 miles, but next year we hope the prophetic words will be fulfilled which say: "And the last will be first and the first will be last."

"As a general proposition, the value of a man to society is in proportion to his ability to work with other men."
—*Elbert Hubbard.*

* * *
"What we do for ourselves alone dies with us, what we do for others remains and is immortal."
—*Albert Pike.*

* * *
"When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt."
—*Henry J. Kaiser.*

South African Mission

FELICIA FOURIE BECOMES BRIDE

At a lovely dinner in Salt Lake City at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Clark, friends and relatives learned of the approaching marriage of Miss Felicia Fourie to Mr. Dan Keeler. Tiny scrolls revealed the June 11th wedding plans of the couple who recited vows in the Salt Lake Temple.

The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Fourie of Cape Town. Mrs. A. P. Fourie has been the president of the South African Mission Primaries since 1934. Her daughter was very prominent in the church activities in this country, and was one of three girls from South Africa to ever become a Golden Gleaner. She was graduated from Rustenburg school in Cape Town and moved to Salt Lake City in 1948. Since that time she has been residing at 520 Second Avenue there.

Mr. Keeler is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Keeler of Provo, Utah. At present he is a student at the University of Utah where he is a member of Delta Phi fraternity. He has completed a mission to France.

THE PRICE OF WATER

The son of Zacharias went well out of his way to find water for baptisms, so the Good Book says, and last month it seemed that John's search for immersable quantities was not the last to be made of its kind. In true Holy Land style, Southern Rhodesia was suffering drought, and the work of the Lord wanted moisture.

The Elders in Salisbury were not new to the problem of water hunting. Shortly after dedicating the land to missionary work in December of 1950, the Elders saw the first effects of heavenly sanction in the conversion of Brother Hugh Hodgkiss. Water, however, was the one essential lacking. This first baptismal puzzle was solved by a trip of over thirty miles to the Mermaid's Pool. The second time was not so easy, for the poor health of one candidate prohibited travel, and water was not closer in. But proselytes are not to be daunted.

The casual visitor to the spacious swimming pool in the heart of Salisbury's town gardens May 26th would have been struck with the singularity of his view — for it is not every day that one can witness the human transport of great swimming pool quantities. Such was the case. With the zeal of conversion, Elders and proselytes were labouriously trucking large drums full of water to their homemade baptismal font several miles away. On Sunday, May 27th, Mr. and Mrs. Rickson took the covenants of holy baptism in their own back garden. Four others were baptised that day in the same homemade font. One lady of weak health, always averse to the shock of sudden immersion in cold water, experienced the baptism "feeling grand." Salisbury Branch was elated.

Steady progress has been the keynote in Salisbury since first that city was opened to missionary work in September of 1950. With the addition of two more baptisms since May's Sunday of six, the convert total rises to nine in ten months, and the work is not over. The mission joins with congratulations to a branch justly proud.

DICK FAGAN COMPETES IN COMRADE MARATHON

By Elder Dean Baxter

Concerning the annual 54 mile "Comrade Marathon" the Natal Daily News of May 25, 1951 reported: "Pluckiest runner in the race was 28 year old novice Dick Fagan, of Durban, who left Maritzberg in the dark at 6:00 A.M. and reached the track in the gloom at 5:21 P.M." After 11 hrs. and 21 minutes of hard running, Dick Fagan made the last stretch around the Durban track and became the first Latter-day Saint to finish the great 54 mile "Comrade Marathon," which is known to many as the "toughest race in the world."

When interviewed, Dick stated he had not had enough training and was only a beginner, but still wanted to run the Marathon.

(Continued on page 106)

Transfers and Appointments . . .

TRANSFERS MADE IN JUNE

Name.	from	to	to labour with
Elder William A. Allen	Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.	Berea, Tvl.	Elder Gerald Hulbert.
Elder Clifford D. Bush	Southern Suburbs, Tvl.	Durban, Natal.	Elder D. D. Baxter.
Elder Ronald B. Clark	East London, C.P.	Parkhurst, Tvl.	Elder M. C. Nichols.
Elder Louis K. Falck	Bellville, C.P.	Strand, C.P.	Elder Floyd Trimble.
Elder James D. Gardner	East London, C.P.	Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.	
Elder P. D. Harrison	Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.	East London, C.P.	Elder Elwin Slater.
Elder Farr W. Hansen	Parktown North, Tvl.	Auckland Park, Tvl.	
Elder Dimar G. Hogan	Florida, Tvl.	Mission Office to become Mission Secretary.	
Elder Gerald Hulbert	Pretoria, Tvl.	Berea, Tvl.	Elder William Allen.
Elder Darwin D. Metcalf	Plumstead, Cape.	Brakpan, Tvl.	Elder Norval Jones.
Elder Murray C. Nichols	Luanshya, N. Rhodesia.	Parkhurst, Tvl.	Elder Ronald Clark.
Elder Ronald T. Pace	Auckland Park, Tvl.	Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.	Elder Rodney T. Clark.
Elder Mac. F. Reynolds	Sea Point, Cape	Durban, Natal.	Elder Toomy.
Elder Elwin J. Slater	Brakpan, Tvl.	East London, C. P.	
Elder Dan R. Sorensen	Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.	Sea Point, Cape.	Elder Vervle Leavitt.
Elder Meade Squire	Southern Suburbs, Tvl.	Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.	
Elder Dale E. Talbot	Durban, Natal.	Northern Rhodesia.	
Elder Robert S. Thompson	Florida, Tvl.	Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.	
Elder Donald E. Toomey	Bloemfontein, O.F.S.	Durban, Natal.	Elder Mac Reynolds.
Elder Floyd E. Trimble	Bellville, C.P.	Strand, C. P.	Elder Louis Falck.
Elder Richard Keith Winters	Umtali, S. Rhodesia.	Benoni, Tvl.	
Elder LaMar Wilson	Sea Point, C.P.	Durban, Natal.	Elder Floyd Leavitt.
Elder Gail S. Young	Parktown North Tvl.	Bloemfontein, O.F.S.	Elder Gordon Cooper.

Arrivals . . .

The following missionaries arrived aboard the "Stirling Castle" on June 28, 1951.

name:	home:	assigned to:
Elder Vervle B. Leavitt	Leavitt, Alberta, Canada	Sea Point, C.P.
Elder R. Glen Sherwood	Cardston, Alberta, Canada	Transvaal.
Elder Melvin G. Stockdale	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	Transvaal.
Elder Richard B. Murray	Magrath, Alberta, Canda	Transvaal.

Statistics . . .

BAPTISMS.

Youriel Kathleen (Hutton-Brown) Rickson, was baptized May 27, 1951, at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia by Elder Donald D. Ellsworth and was confirmed by Elder Donald D. Ellsworth on the same day.

Charles John Gerald Rickson, was baptized May 27, 1951, at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia by Elder James Gary Whiting and was confirmed by Elder James Gary Whiting on the same day.

Wavell Winston King, was baptized May 27, 1951, at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia by Elder Donald D. Ellsworth and was confirmed by Elder James Gary Whiting on the same day.

Ursula Dulcie King, was baptized May 27, 1951, at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia by Elder William H. Allen and was confirmed by Elder Rodney T. Clark on the same day.

Eileen Gladys (Tudge) King, was baptized May

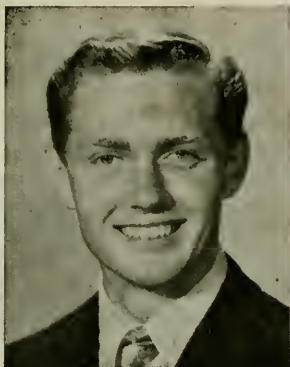
27, 1951, at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia by Elder Rodney T. Clark and was confirmed by Elder William H. Allen on the same day.

Harold William Neale, was baptized on May 27, 1951, at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia by Elder Rodney T. Clark and was confirmed by Elder Donald D. Ellsworth on the same day.

John Christopher Shaw Telford, was baptized June 3, 1951, at Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia by Elder Leo. D. Miller and was confirmed by Elder Parry D. Harrison on the same day.

Audrey Mary Wells Allen, was baptized June 10, 1951, at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia by Elder James Gary Whiting and was confirmed by Elder Rodney T. Clark on the same day.

Sandra Anne Allen, was baptized June 10, 1951, at Salisbury Southern Rhodesia by Elder William H. Allen and was confirmed by Elder William H. Allen on the same day.

Released . . .

Elder Johnston



Elder Bradshaw



Elder Weggeland

Elders Dale G. Johnson, Gordon Gail Weggeland, and Lloyd N. Bradshaw were honourably released from their missions and sailed for home July 6, 1951, aboard the "Cape Town Castle."

Elder Johnson had served in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Salisbury Southern Rhodesia, and in the Mission Office. He acted as the supervising elder in opening Salisbury for proselyting work and completed his mission serving as mission secretary at "Cumorah." Elder Johnson's smile and amicable personality will never be forgotten. His keen intellect was matched with an eagerness to do the Lord's work and he accomplished an inestimable amount of good in this land.

Elder Weggeland had laboured in Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, the Mission

Office, and Sea Point, Cape. He served as District President at Bloemfontein and in the genealogical department in the Mission Office. He was equipped with a good educational background before coming into the mission field that enabled him to meet with and impress many. South Africa is losing a valuable missionary with his departure.

Elder Bradshaw had served in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Florida, and Durban. Elder Bradshaw was well-known to the fans of baseball and basketball having made an outstanding record for himself in both of these sports while on his mission. He won the love and respect of all, wherever he went, and will forever be remembered as a choice servant of the Lord.

MISSION PRESIDENCY MESSAGE FOR JULY — (Continued from page 100)

of the human family depends upon to what extent the plan of salvation is affectively inculcated into the lives of men and women, for the God of heaven has declared that there is no other way than the gospel of Jesus Christ whereby man can be saved.

Being members of the Church of Jesus Christ and possessors of the truth, under divine injunction we go forth to wage war on sin and unrighteousness. Though the powers of Satan are enjoying a temporary triumph in ruling the hearts and minds of men, let us go forward fearlessly, armed with the Priesthood of God, wearing the armour of faithfulness and righteous living, for the Lord has revealed that in the end which is fast approaching, truth and righteousness will be victorious and He whose right it is to reign shall return to the earth as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. This is the destiny of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The pioneers of yesterday launched the work of this dispensation. The pioneers of today must hold high the banner committed to us. Brothers and Sisters—is this going to be accomplished *because* of you or *inspite* of you? Let us be lifters, not leaners. Let us be accelerators not inhibitors. Let us be among the pioneers that enter the valley of Life Eternal, not among those who fall enroute.

Robert P. Thorn, Second Counselor, Mission Presidency.

District Highlights . . .

CAPE DISTRICT

District President: Alvin F. Park, "St. George Villa," Forest Road, Rondebosch, C.P.

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Branch President: Daniel A. Cheritt, 14, Serpentine, Pinelands, C.P.

Reported by Beatrice Smith

Sister Cook of Durban and Sister Mary Millan Stark did not choose the best time of the year to take a holiday at the Cape. We hope they were not too disappointed with our winter.

President Wright returned from an up-country trip, but we were not privileged to enjoy his company for very long, as he and his family together with President Thorn and Elder Cook have left for a tour of the Mission. We feel that the branches in all South Africa will welcome this opportunity of speaking to President Wright and Sister Wright, although we miss them very much when they are away.

It was with a twinkle in her eye that rivalled the sparkle of the ring on her finger, that Sister Leonora Zinn announced her engagement to Mr. Jannie Joubert of Durban. Good luck to these young people is the wish of all their friends.

We were very pleased to welcome back Sister Johanna Fourie and Uncle Awie from their trip in Rhodesia.

It was also very fine to see Sister Amy Hyland back after her operation. We feel sure that she is going to go on from strength to strength now.

Sister Jolliffe is another of our numbers who has been ill and we are glad to see that she is now quite recovered from her attack of pleurisy. We trust that Sister Maatjie will soon be quite well again.

Sister Frances Butt has been admitted to hospital for an appendix operation. We shall miss her at the meetings and we pray that

she will soon be absolutely "in the pink."

Rain — and more rain — could not put a damper on the spirits of those who took part in the concert on the 8th of June. Had the weather been kinder, the crowd would surely have been larger, as it was the M.I.A. funds benefitted to the tune of £6-10-0. We have to thank Mr. Thomas Roodt, Miss Molly Church and Mr. Roland Noone for a recital of songs. The play "Happy is the Bride" was produced by Sister B. E. Smith, with Sisters Lorraine Bibb, Sheila Bibb, Beta Petterson and Imelda Williams, Miss Jean Behrens and Brother Eric Bibb in the cast. Special thanks to Sisters Maria Butt and Frances Butt for making the wedding-cake and the bouquets, to Mrs. Ella Skea for assistance with make-up, and to the ladies who lent their wedding-dress and veil for the evening.

After service, on the 10th, we adjourned to the home of Brother and Sisters Higgs, where Sister Edith Wiid gave us a review of John Henry Evan's book: "Joseph Smith — an American Prophet." We then all tucked-in to the refreshments that were provided.

Sister Arlene Booth has given birth to a daughter. Our congregation is growing slowly but surely.

Heartiest congratulations to that grand old gentleman of "Cumorah," Brother Thomas Wilson, who celebrated his eighty-second birthday on June 15th.

Bro. Lionel Bibb and Alan were still away in the old Transvaal. We hope that they are enjoying better weather than has been the lot of Capetonians this June.

At Sacrament Meeting on the 24th, we heard farewell messages from Elders Wegge-land and Johnson. We were stirred by the truths of the Gospel as expounded by these two fine missionaries, who are now on their way back to their homeland. May the Lord's blessings go with them.

The branch treated the members to a cinema show on the 20th when an enjoyable programme of cartoons and educational shorts was shown to an appreciative audience.

PORT ELIZABETH DISTRICT AND BRANCH

Branch President: Elder S. Ronald
Lisonbee, 26 Westbourne Road,
Port Elizabeth.

Reported by Enid Griffith

On the 26th of May we said good-bye to Elder Holman, who has been transferred to Cape Town. We wish him luck and hope he will enjoy his new field of labour. On the 26th, a social was held in aid of the building fund. The evening was spent in playing games, and refreshments were sold.

On the 24th we welcomed Elder Stockton to Port Elizabeth and we hope he will enjoy his stay with us. On the 27th Elder Richard La Mar Wilson payed us a visit on his way to Durban. We were happy to have him with us at our morning service. On the 9th of June Bro. Doller, snr. was admitted to hospital. He is improving slowly. On the 10th Elder Reynolds, who was on his way to Durban, payed us a visit. We were happy to have him with us. On the 17th President Wright, Sister Wright and family, together with Elders Thorn and Cook payed us a visit on their way to Durban and we were pleased to have them at our morning service. The talks by Elder Cook and Elder Thorn were most inspirational. President Wright was the main speaker. He gave us wonderful words of counsel and advice.

EAST LONDON DISTRICT AND BRANCH

Branch President: Elder James Gardner,
52, Frere Road, Vincent, East London.

Reported by Theodora Booysen

Brother and Sister Krull had the opportunity of going on a holiday during the month. Although short, it proved to be a pleasant break and they came back refreshed in body and mind.

Our heartiest congratulations to Sister Rith van der Merwe and her husband on the birth of their son on the 26th May.

We were all sorry to hear that Brother B. A. T. Jubber had been removed to the Frere Hospital. We have missed him at our meetings where his faithfulness has been an inspiration to all and we hope that he will

soon be well enough to mingle in our gatherings again.

It was with deep regret that we heard of the sudden death of Mrs. McGill on the 19th June. Our deepest sympathy to Jean and Rhona and the rest of the family.

SALISBURY BRANCH

Branch President: Elder J. Gary Whiting,
38 Baines Avenue, Salisbury, Southern
Rhodesia.

Reported by Hugh H. Hodgkiss

Salisbury branch is very proud to announce it has increased its membership by eight members in the last month. These new members we welcome into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and particularly into the Salisbury Branch. May they grow in the strength of the Lord.

At the end of June members and friends joined together in a Braai, and a good time. The members went to the spot on the Hunyani River about fifteen miles outside Salisbury on an open lorry hired for the occasion. Gathered under blankets singing songs to keep out of the cold.

Thanks go to Sister Rickson for the arrangements and the food, and also the Missionaries who helped her in these arrangements.

On Wednesday 20th the sisters of the Branch got together with the idea of forming a Salisbury Branch of the Women's Relief Society. Elders Whiting and Ellsworth were present to assist with information when required. No definite decisions as yet have been reached until more help is received from Head Quarters.

Brother Hugh Hodgkiss was presented and sustained as Superintendent of the Sunday School, Salisbury Branch on June 10th.

NATAL DISTRICT AND DURBAN BRANCH

Branch President: Elder M. M. Merrill,
562 Ridge Road, Durban, Natal.

Reported by Joyce Wahlburn

Appetites came uppermost again at Mutual's "Tickey Night," when the "Hot-dog and Lemonade" stand once more proved most popular.

The Relief Society Sisters swelled their worthy fund by holding a cake sale and Sale of Work on the 9th of May.

Mr. and Mrs. Cave held a Surprise party at their home at Durban North on the 8th of June in honour of Elder Leavitt's birthday and a good time was afforded by all those who attended.

On the 12th of June Mutual organized a jolly Scavenger Hunt which terminated in a double feature at the Alvin Cinema.

TRANSVAAL DISTRICT

District President: George C. Ganter,
132, Stanhope Road, Malvern East,
Johannesburg.

RAMAH BRANCH

Branch President: Francis Donly,
94, Somerset Road, Kensington,
Johannesburg.

Reported by Mary Millan Stark

The Mutual members were proud and happy to be able to hold a Welcome Home Social for Sister Thelma Ninow, who has been honourably released after serving a Mission. The Branch will benefit from Sister Thelma's experience as she has always been an energetic and willing worker.

With a picnic to Giloolie's Farm, a Basket Social, A Tickey Night for funds and plans for a Mid-Winter Dance the Mutual officers are providing plenty of activity for keeping warm in the "Winter" Season.

Genealogical Officers raised funds for sending a delegate to Cape Town and for the purchasing of books by holding a Variety Concert. It was so successful that a repeat

performance will probably be held. The organisers and artistes are to be congratulated. Sister Norma Ninow, Brother John Meyer, Brother Tex Smith and Pianist Sister Matthews worked hard and diligently to produce a well-balanced show and Ramah's own (male) Andrews Sisters with 'Danny Kaye' were high-lights.

SPRINGS BRANCH

Branch President: Reaford E. Futter, 65
8th Street, New Township, Springs.

Reported by Nola Troski

The Primary had a surprise party for the Primary Mother on her birthday, 22nd May. Sister Armstrong was terribly pleased and the whole afternoon was a tremendous success. The children delighted in the secrecy of the occasion and were all the more joyed, when instead of the usual song practice, they all sang "Happy Birthday."

There was a general officers' and teachers' meeting called on May 27th, at which Elder Bigler and Bro. I. C. Louw were present. It was good to attend the meeting and to realize the faith of the members as Elder Bigler said in his sermon that night.

On the 31st day of May, the Sunday school sponsored a basket evening at the home of Bro. and Sister E. L. Futter. The attendance wasn't as good as expected, but the enjoyment was great. On returning with all necessary equipment, the winning team was presented with a prize, and refreshments were served.

We wish to welcome back into the congregation of Springs, Sister Brunt. She has been away for a few months, but we believe that she is back for good now.

The Church Around the World (Cont. from Page 99)

establishing the work in China, Elder and Mrs. Henry W. Aki of Hawaii were called to accompany them to Hong Kong. On their way to China they were joined in Japan by Elder Mathew Cowley of the Council of the Twelve and Mrs. Cowley. July, 14, Elder Cowley with the missionaries,

went to the Victoria Peak overlooking Hong Kong, and there the mission was opened by a dedicatory prayer.

Eighteen months later the missionaries received the call to return home. Before they left sixteen people were baptized and

confirmed members of the Church. The Chinese mission has not been closed; it has only been transferred to a new area. The new headquarters have been established in San Francisco from where the missionaries will operate in that city's world-famed China Town.